

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2637

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETRI, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HOLT, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. MALONEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Campus Fire Safety
5 Right-to-Know Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY OF CAMPUS BUILD-**
2 **INGS.**

3 Section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1092) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

6 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
7 paragraph (N);

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of
9 subparagraph (O) and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 “(P) the fire safety report prepared by the in-
13 stitution pursuant to subsection (h).”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(h) DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND
17 MEASURES.—

18 “(1) ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORTS RE-
19 QUIRED.—Each eligible institution participating in
20 any program under this title shall, beginning in the
21 first academic year that begins after the date of en-
22 actment of the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know
23 Act of 2005, and each year thereafter, prepare, pub-
24 lish, and distribute, through appropriate publications
25 (including the Internet) or mailings, to all current
26 students and employees, and to any applicant for en-

1 rollment or employment upon request, an annual fire
2 safety report. Such reports shall contain at least the
3 following information with respect to the campus fire
4 safety practices and standards of that institution:

5 “(A) A statement that identifies each uni-
6 versity owned or controlled student housing fa-
7 cility, and whether or not that facility is
8 equipped with a fire sprinkler system or other
9 fire safety systems, fire escape planning or pro-
10 tocols, or both.

11 “(B) Statistics for each student housing
12 facility concerning the occurrence of fires and
13 false alarms in each facility, during the 2 pre-
14 ceding calendar years for which data are avail-
15 able.

16 “(C) For each such occurrence in facilities
17 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), a sum-
18 mary of the human injuries or deaths, struc-
19 tural and property damage, or combination
20 thereof.

21 “(D) Information regarding rules on port-
22 able electrical appliances, smoking and open
23 flames (such as candles), regular mandatory su-
24 pervised fire drills, and planned and future im-
25 provements in fire safety.

1 “(E) Information about fire safety edu-
2 cation and training provided to students, fac-
3 ulty, and staff.

4 “(F) Information concerning fire safety at
5 any housing facilities owned or controlled by
6 student groups that are recognized by the insti-
7 tution, including any student fraternity and so-
8 rority houses, including—

9 “(i) information reported to the insti-
10 tution under paragraph (4); and

11 “(ii) a statement concerning whether
12 and how the institution works with recog-
13 nized student fraternities and sororities,
14 and other recognized student groups own-
15 ing housing facilities, to make building and
16 property owned or controlled by such fra-
17 ternities or sororities more fire safe.

18 “(2) FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES.—Each
19 institution participating in a program under this
20 title shall request each fraternity and sorority that
21 is recognized by the institution, and any other stu-
22 dent group that is recognized by the university and
23 that owns or controls housing facilities, to collect
24 and report to the institution the information de-
25 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of para-

graph (1), as applied to the fraternity, sorority, or recognized student group, for each building and property owned or controlled by the fraternity, sorority, or group respectively.

“(3) CURRENT INFORMATION TO CAMPUS COMMUNITY.—Each institution participating in any program under this title shall make, keep, and maintain a log, written in a form that can be easily understood, recording all on-campus fires, including the nature, date, time, and general location of each fire and all false fire alarms. All entries that are required pursuant to this paragraph shall, except where disclosure of such information is prohibited by law, be open to public inspection, and each such institution shall make annual reports to the campus community on such fires and false fire alarms in a manner that will aid the prevention of similar occurrences.

“(4) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—On an annual basis, each institution participating in any program under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy of the statistics required to be made available under paragraph (1)(B). The Secretary shall—

“(A) review such statistics;

1 “(B) make copies of the statistics sub-
2 mitted to the Secretary available to the public;
3 and

4 “(C) in coordination with nationally recog-
5 nized fire organizations and representatives of
6 institutions of higher education, identify exem-
7 plary fire safety policies, procedures, and prac-
8 tices and disseminate information concerning
9 those policies, procedures, and practices that
10 have proven effective in the reduction of cam-
11 pus fires.

12 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
13 this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
14 Secretary to require particular policies, procedures,
15 or practices by institutions of higher education with
16 respect to fire safety.

17 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
18 term ‘campus’ has the meaning provided in sub-
19 section (f)(6).”.

20 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS BY SECRETARY OF EDU-**
21 **CATION.**

22 Within two years after the date of enactment of this
23 Act, the Secretary of Education shall prepare and submit
24 to the Congress a report containing—

1 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire
2 safety systems in college and university facilities, in-
3 cluding sprinkler systems;

4 (2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety
5 standards to apply to these facilities, which the Sec-
6 retary shall prepare after consultation with such fire
7 safety experts, representatives of institutions of
8 higher education, and other Federal agencies as the
9 Secretary, in the Secretary's discretion, considers
10 appropriate;

11 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all non-
12 conforming student housing facilities up to current
13 building codes; and

14 (4) recommendations from the Secretary con-
15 cerning the best means of meeting fire safety stand-
16 ards in all college facilities, including recommenda-
17 tions for methods to fund such cost.

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